

Thura NewsViews

Politics

United Nation's refugee chief visit to Myanmar delayed

Myanmar has reportedly postponed a visit planned by the United Nation's refugee chief to travel to Rakhine State, amid fresh fighting in the beleaguered region. According to an AFP article, Mr Filippo Gandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, was due to visit the area last week. However, the trip was pushed back. "Based on assessment of Myanmar authorities of the security situation in Rakhine, the visit has been postponed," UNHCR spokesman Mr Andrej Mahecic was quoted as saying in the article. Recent weeks has seen renewed fighting between the Myanmar Army and the Arakan Army. Until recently, they were a relatively obscure armed group claiming to fight for the rights of Rakhine people. On January 4, the Arakan Army staged four attacks on Border Guard Police (BGP) outposts, killing 13. In a press conference on January 7, government spokesman U Zaw Htay labelled the Arakan Army a "terrorist organisation". Rakhine State has been in conflict for the past years, with an international outcry over the Myanmar army's heavy-handed crack-down on the Muslim population. In a statement, the United League of Arakan (ULA), the political wing of the AA, denied any alleged contact with ARSA.

Thura Swiss Ltd.
Economic Research
Shwe Hinthar B 307
6 1/2 Miles Pyay Road
11 Qtr. Hlaing Tsp.
Yangon, Myanmar

Phone +95 (0)1 654 730
Fax +95 (0)1 654 733
info@thuraswiss.com
www.thuraswiss.com

January Highlights

Local banks have been permitted to allocated 5 percent of their total loan portfolio towards mortgages not exceeding three years

Myanmar banks have been permitted to extend loans without the need for collateral at a maximum lending rate of 16 percent

The Ministry of Industry encourages the manufacturing of electric vehicles by local companies according to the Mitsubishi standard.

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Companies & Investments

Hot news regarding investments in Myanmar




Yangon to receive much needed new bus stops

Jul 12, 2018
U Maung Aung, secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority, stated this week that FMIDecaux ha

Hello Communications to build train station along Yangon Circular Railway

Jul 12, 2018
Through a joint venture with a local firm, Hello Communications will commence its work at Thamine st

Upcoming Events

Myanmar Blockchain Forum 2018
July 14, 2018

Myanmar Supply Chain Summit
August 29, 2018

Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Forum
August 30, 2018

Myanmar Global Investment Forum
September 11, 2018 - September 12, 2018

Myanmar Connect 2018
September 18, 2018 - September 19, 2018

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Highlights

Trade with the Netherlands exceeds USD 61 million
July 12, 2018
Bilateral trade with the Netherlands reached USD 61.98 million in two months according to the ...

■ **Court rejects appeal for Reuters journalists**

The Myanmar High Court has rejected the appeal of the two Reuters journalists sentenced to seven years in jail. They were charged under the country’s Official Secrets Act. Critics say is a further blow to press freedom. High Court Judge U Aung Naing said that the defense did not provide sufficient evidence to show that they were innocent. He also said that their sentence “was a suitable punishment”. The defense now has the option of making a further appeal to the Supreme Court. In a statement, Reuters Editor-in-Chief Stephen J. Adler called the ruling “yet another injustice among many inflicted upon Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo”. “Reporting is not a crime, and until Myanmar rights this terrible wrong, the press in Myanmar is not free, and Myanmar’s commitment to rule of law and democracy remains in doubt,” he said. The pair were arrested while investigating the military’s crackdown in Rakhine State in late-2017. They were found guilty despite testimony being given in court that they were deliberately entrapped by the police.

Economy

■ **EU to reinstate duties on Myanmar and Cambodia rice**

The European Commission(EU) has said it will reinstate duties on rice from Myanmar and Cambodia to protect their own farmers. This comes after a surge in cheaper imports from the Southeast Asian countries in recent years. “An investigation has confirmed a significant increase of imports of Indica rice from Cambodia and Myanmar into the European Union that has caused economic damage to European producers,” the Commission said in a statement, according to an AFP story. “The European Commission has therefore decided today to reintroduce import duties that will be steadily reduced over a period of three years”. Beginning last week, it said it is applying a duty of 175 euros (US\$ 200) per tonne of Indica in the first year. The duty will fall to 150 euros per tonne in the second year and 125 euros per tonne in the third. In an investigation conducted last year, the Commission said it found that Indica rice imports from Myanmar and Cambodia increased by 89 percent in the last five seasons. It was added that “prices were substantially lower than those over the EU market”. As a result, European producers saw their market share in the EU market fall from 61 percent to 29 percent, the report said.

■ **Tourism bylaws to be released soon by the Ministry**

Tourism bylaws setting out the rules and regulations for the industry could be released this month by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Parliament approved a new Tourism Law last year, and since then has been working on the new bylaws. The changes include allowing tourism businesses to apply for licences through the regional or state tourism committees. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, those who want to operate guest houses will also be able to apply for a three-year licence. “Tourism is a business that could be held back by too much centralization, that is why regions and states will issue licences under the new law,” U Tint Thwin, a retired director general from the ministry was quoted as saying.

Myanmar in Figures

GDP (PPP): \$330.88bn (2017)
GDP (official ex.rate): \$59.5bn (Jan 2018)
GDP growth rate: 7.23% (2017)
Population: 52.92 mn people (Oct 2017)
Inflation: 6.5% (2017)
Foreign trade: \$29.2bn (2016-2017)
FDI: \$75bn (31/12/2017)
International reserves: \$5.2bn (Jan 2018)
CBM rate Kyat/\$ = 1,524K/1\$ (17/01/19)

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Companies and Investments

■ Zingo raises funds for expansion across the region

Ko Shwe Ventures, the company behind the oral health product Zingo, has raised US\$ 350,000 of seed funding. The funding from international investors will be used to expand its products across the region. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, the company has spent three years conducting research and clinical trials for Zingo. The chewing gum and mouthwash is designed to address the high amount of chewing betel nut across the country. The company will use the latest funds to expand its presence in other parts of Southeast Asia. There are 600 million betel users in the region which Zingo can target, the article said. Ko Shwe founder Mr Sam Glatman said that the funds will allow Zingo to expand “in Myanmar and beyond, as well as [fund] further product development”. In December, Zingo was awarded best in innovation for the Young Entrepreneurs Awards 2018, by the French Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar.

■ Myanmar-focused investment fund to be launched

Singaporean firm Ascent Capital Partners has launched a private equity fund focusing on Myanmar businesses in a range of sectors. Partners include a Myanmar firm, as well as a number of other high-profile investors. The Ascent Myanmar Growth Fund (AMGF) will also include U Aung Moe Kyaw, founder of Myanmar Distillery Co, Singaporean businessman Tony Chew, Singapore’s state-run Temasek, JG Summit Holdings from the Philippines and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). A report said that the fund will target Myanmar companies who operate in the areas of education, financial services, healthcare, technology, media and telecommunications. “These firms will be market leaders, or have the potential to be market leaders in the future,” Mr Lim Chong Chong, founder and managing partner of Ascent Capital Partners, was quoted as saying. “We aim to take the companies to the next level of growth such as launching new products or services or expansion,” he said. The AMGF is aiming to spend about US\$ 100 million on between 10 and 15 investments.

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Myanmar Offshore Summit, Conference and Exhibition	Venue: TBC Date: 24-25 Jan 2019	Organizing Committee of MOSCE	http://www.myanmaroffshore.org/en/Event_Agenda.aspx
Mobile Money & Financial Inclusion Summit	Venue: Park Royal, Yangon Date: 26-27 Feb 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65-6846 2360
Emerging Asia E-Commerce Summit	Venue: Park Royal, Yangon Date: 26-27 Feb 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65-6846 2360
International Conference on Future Computer & Communication	Venue: Yangon Date: 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2019	Science and Engineering Institute (SCIEI)	info@sciei.org
International Conference on Computer Applications	Venue: Novotel Hotel, Yangon Date: 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2019	University of Computer Studies	ucsy.admin@ucsy.edu.mm +95-1-610 889
AVPN Myanmar Social Investment Forum	Venue: Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon Date: 28 Feb 2019	Asian Venture Philanthropy Network Limited	marketing@avpn.asia +65-6536 1824
LPG Myanmar Summit	Venue: LOTTE Hotels & Serviced Apartments, Yangon Date: 03 - 04 Apr 2019	East Africa Institute	eai@aku.edu +25-4203 661200
Myanmar Coffee Teas & Sweets Festival	Venue: Myanmar Convention Center, Yangon Date: 01-04 May 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
International Food & Drink Carnival	Venue: Fortune Plaza Information Centre and Sale Gallery, Yangon Date: 09-12 May 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
Food & Hotel Myanmar	Venue: Yangon Convention Centre (YCC), Yangon Date: 05-07 June 2019	UBM Myanmar	info-hk@ubm.com +95-1-378 975

Tenders

■ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Procurement of Works

1. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation as implementing agency (IA) of Myanmar, is being jointly implementing the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project under the grant agreement funded by the Chinese government. The Joint Project Management Office (JPMO) intends to apply part of the financing for constructing of the following rural infrastructures at the two villages: Aye Chan Thar Village in Tatkone Township and Min Pyin Village in Lewe Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Territory and now invites sealed bids from the eligible local companies and Chinese companies having branch office registered in Myanmar.

Lot-1 Constructions for Aye Chan Thar Village in Tatkone Township

No.	Tender No.	Description
1.	1	School Building (RC, One Storey)
2.	1	Teacher Dormitory (RC)
3.	1	Library (RC)
4.	2	School Toilet (RC)
5.	1	School Fence (Chain Link)
6.	1	Road Improvement (Concrete)
7.	1	Community Development Centre (RC)
8.	1	Rural Clinic (RC)
9.	1	Earth filling Work for Sport Field
10.	1	School Playground

Lot-2 Constructions for Min Pyin Village in Lewe Township

No.	Tender No.	Description
1.	1	School Building (RC, Two Storey)
2.	2	School Toilet (RC)
3.	1	Community Development Centre (RC)
4.	1	River Bank and Related Works
5.	1	School Playground

Lot-3 Road Improvement (Concrete) for Min Pyin Village in Lewe Township

No.	Tender No.	Description
1.	1	School Building (RC, Two Storey)

2. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the Project Administration Manual Guidelines: Procurement of Works under Grants by IPRCC ("Procurement Guidelines").
3. A complete bidding documents in English may be requested in free of charge by the eligible bidders having express interested, from the email address below and clearly indicated interested lot number.

4. Sealed bids must be delivered in person to the address below on or before **11th February, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** Late bid will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened immediately thereafter at the address given below in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend.
5. Further information and electronic copy of the bidding documents can be obtained from Office No. 36, Nay Pyi Taw with attention to U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director of the Department of Rural Development under telephone number: +95-67-418633, fax number: +95-67-418657 through email address ksaung@gmail.com and cc to pldrd.npt@gmail.com and chinamyanmarjpmo@gmail.com.

■ **Ministry of Construction: Procurement of Goods/Works**

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the **Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP)**. The Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD) under the Ministry of Construction, in its role as implementing agency of the FLERP, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the **procurement of heavy equipment for road construction and road maintenance**.
2. The DRRD now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of the following heavy equipment:

No.	Lot No.	Description
1.	Lot 1	6 Hydraulic Excavators
2.	Lot 2	12 Bulldozers
3.	Lot 3	6 Three Wheel Road Rollers
4.	Lot 4	6 Water Browsers
5.	Lot 5	6 Transporters
6.	Lot 6	12 Backhoe Loaders
7.	Lot 7	6 Skid Steer Loader with 6 sets attached Grader and 6 sets Vibrating Roller
8.	Lot 8	6 Truck mounted Cranes

3. The heavy equipment will have to be delivered to 2 project sites within the DRRD, Union Territory, Zabu Thiri Township, Dekkhina Thiri District, Nay Pyi Taw and the DRRD, Lower Myanmar Based Office, Pale Myothit, New Khway Compound, Yangon. The delivery is split into two partial deliveries each for half of the quantity of heavy equipment specified for each of the lots. The delivery time for the first partial delivery is limited to 90 days, and for the second partial delivery to 210 days to be counted from the date of signature of the contract.
4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines, and is open to all eligible bidders.
5. Interested eligible bidders can obtain further information from the DRRD, Ms. Tin Moe Myint, Deputy Director General (ruralroad.drrd@gmail.com and/or flercproject.drrd@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours from 09:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. at the address given below.
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English can be obtained upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The bidding documents will be sent by email only.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below or before **1st March, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on 1st March, 2019 immediately after the bid submission. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security.
8. The address (es) referred to above is (are) the Department of Rural Road Development, Ministry of Construction at Yanaung (2) quarter, North of 200 Bedded Hospital, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw with attention to Daw Tin Moe Myint, Deputy Director General, DRRD under telephone number: +95-67-24821, fax number: +95-67-24824 through email addresses rbbdrrd@gmail.com and/or flercproject.drrd@gmail.com